Tapping of Cricket Players' Phones

†5521. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for tapping the Cricket players' phones during the recent cricket matches between India and South Africa;

(b) the details of the tapes which prompted the Police dep°rtment to conduct an inquiry into the suspected match-fixing;

(c) whether Government was in touch with South African authorities about the match-fixing before and after the allegations were made public against the South African Cricket Captain and other players; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response received from the South African authorities on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOMEAFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) and (b) The Telephones provided at the Hotel rooms of the South African players were not tapped. However, the cell phone conversation between Hansie Cronje and Sanjay Chawla was tapped by monitoring the phone purchased by another co-accused, Rajesh Kalra.

(c) and (d) In conformity with the close and cordial relations between India and South Africa, the South African authorities were informed about the possible involvement of* certain members of their cricket team in match fixing. The Government of South Africa have re-affirmed their decision to abide by the results of the due process of law in this case. Further, the Government of South Africa prepare to set up a judicial commission of enquiry to probe the developments following revelations of the former captain of South African cricket team and have solicited India's cooperation in their commission of enquiry.

Anti-Land Mine vehicles for Paramilitary Forces

†5522. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of personnel of the paramilitary forces (Central Security Agencies) who were killed[1] and injured in the on going terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, andNE States of Manipur, Tripura and Nagaland during the last two years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.